

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ABIDJA 08357 240825Z
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-13 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGRE-00 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07 INT-05
L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 SS-15
STR-04 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01
/098 W

-----029487 240826Z/10

P 231530Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5004
INFO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, MTN, IV
SUBJECT: MTN NOTIFICATION ON CUSTOMS FORMALITIES AND FEES

REF: (A) STATE 194162 (B) ABIDJAN A-16

1. EMBASSY HAS NO OBJECTION TO NOTIFICATION ON IMPORT INSPECTION PROCEDURES CITED REFTEL. AT SAME TIME, IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THIS PROCEDURE DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE SIGNIFICANT HINDRANCE TO U.S. EXPORTS TO IVORY COAST. LIKE SIMILAR MEASURES IMPLEMENTED BY OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES (SENEGAL AND ZAIRE HAVE BEEN MENTIONED), THIS PROCEDURE WAS INSTITUTED BY GOIC AS SOLUTION TO GROWING PROBLEM OF OVERPRICING OF EXPORTS TO IVORY COAST. U.S. BUSINESSMEN IN IVORY COAST INDICATE THAT, WHILE INSPECTION REQUIREMENT DOES ENTAIL SOME EXPENSE AND DELAY, IT HAS GENERALLY BEEN IMPLEMENTED FAIRLY, AND THEY HAVE LITTLE EVIDENCE OF IT HAVING BEEN ABUSED.

2. BY CONTRAST, BUSINESSMEN EXPRESS MUCH GREATER CONCERN ABOUT IMPORT LICENSING SYSTEM IMPOSED BY GOIC DECREE 76-281 OF APRIL 20, 1976 (DESCRIBED PAGE 7 OF REF B. DECREE EMPOWERS BUREAU OF FOREIGN TRADE IN THE MINISTRE DU COMMERCE TO ISSUE LICENSES FOR IMPORTS

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PAGE 02 ABIDJA 08357 240825Z

OF A LARGE VARIETY OF AGRICULTURAL, INDUSTRIAL, AND CONSUMER PRODUCTS LISTED IN ANNEX A TO THE DECREE (ALSO TO IMPOSE QUOTAS ON EXPORTS OF PRODUCTS LISTED IN ANNEX B). LICENSES ARE ISSUED ON THE BASIS OF A SYSTEM OF QUOTAS SET FOR EACH PRODUCT. PROSPECTIVE IMPORTERS ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER WITH THE MINISTRY AS SUCH, AT WHICH TIME THEY ARE ALLOCATED SOME PORTION OF THE QUOTAS FOR THE PRODUCTS WHICH THEY HAVE INDICATED THEY WISH TO IMPORT.

3. THE CRITERION FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF QUOTAS IS "THE NATIONAL INTEREST AND THE IMPERATIVES OF PROTECTING THE NATION ECONOMY." IN PRACTICE THEREFORE, THE BUREAU OF FOREIGN TRADE ENJOYS GREAT FLEXIBILITY IN CONSULTING WITH OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND WITH IMPORTERS IN DETERMINING THE LEVEL OF QUOTAS. OVERALL QUOTAS FOR INDIVIDUAL PRODUCTS HAVE NOT BEEN PUBLISHED, BUT ARE SUPPOSED TO BE MADE AVAILABLE IN RESPONSE TO INQUIRIES. QUOTAS FOR INDIVIDUAL IMPORTERS ARE NOT MADE AVAILABLE PUBLICLY.

4. COMMENT: SOME BUSINESSMEN HAVE COMPLAINED THAT ADMINISTRATION OF QUOTAS HAS IN A FEW CASES BEEN ARBITRARY AND DISCRIMINATORY. EMBASSY NOTES THAT NEWNESS OF REGULATORY PROGRAM AND ITS CONSEQUENT LACK OF SYSTEMATIZATION MAY HAVE BEEN AT ROOT OF SOME PROBLEMS. NEVERTHELESS, IT IS CLEAR THAT A VAGUE CRITERIA FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF QUOTAS COUPLED WITH SECRETIVENESS OF THAT SYSTEM RENDER IT EXTREMELY VULNERABLE TO ACCUSATIONS OF PARTIALITY AND OTHER, MORE SERIOUS, ABUSES. USG MAY THEREFORE WISH TO CONSIDER RAISING THIS REGULATION AS ITEM FOR DISCUSSION WITH GOIC IN MTN. COPY OF DECREE, ITS ANNEXES, AND EXPLANATORY AVIS AUX IMPORTATEURS NO. 76-003 BEING POUCHE TO: PHILIP MICHELINI, OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL MARKETING, DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE.
COOKE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 23-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decapton Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770835/aaaabdgo.tel
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